

**AmeriCorps Formula Grant State Competition TA Session
July 8, 2004**

Q: Is the living stipend for AC comparable to minimum wage?

A: No, it is less than minimum wage. It is important to know that the AC member is a stipended volunteer, not a salaried employee. The living allowance is not counted by the hour.

Q: What if E-grants isn't working when we are trying to submit our application?

A: You must notify Serve DC in advance of the deadline (August 4, 2004, 5:00 PM) by email and phone call then submit a hardcopy in person the Serve DC office no later than the original deadline.

Q: Can we apply for just a couple of members and not a whole corps?

A: For this grant, the recommended minimum number of members for a program is 10 members. All applications will be considered, however AmeriCorps is a team based program, therefore a team based approach that helps meet the needs of your community is recommended.

Q: Since we are part of a National initiative, could we apply to the CNCS directly to be a National Direct program rather than through Serve DC?

A: Yes, if you operate in more than one state, your organization can apply directly to CNCS as a National Direct.

Q: Since this is a 3 year grant, does that mean the grantee is guaranteed funding for 3 years?

A: Funding is based on a three year cycle, however funding is not guaranteed. Continued funding is based on progress toward objectives and continued funding from CNCS.

Q: The RFA asks to include whether the organization has experience managing other AC grants. Does this refer to the actual person who is writing the grant or the organization as a whole?

A: We are referring to the organization.

Q: What is the timeline? If the application is due in August, when does the program year begin?

A: Awards will be announced by August 20th. Programs may begin their programs after negotiations and agreements are signed. This could take up to six weeks.

Q: Are there restrictions because of Serve DC's fiscal year affecting the grantee's program year?

A: No, we distribute the funds within our fiscal year, but it can be spent by the grantee outside of that year. Grantee can match it to their fiscal year if desired.

Q: If we have other materials ready, such as financial documentation, can they be submitted prior to submitting the application?

A: Yes! The only two documents we need are evaluations (if applicable) and the latest financial audit or A-133.

Q: Are we developing the logic model for all 3 years?

A: You may want to develop a 3 year logic model, but we only want your first year performance measures.

Q: Do we need to put all 3 aspects of performance measurements in all 3 sections (needs assessment, member development and Strengthening Communities)?

A: You are only required to create one outcome for each of the three categories. You must have at least one output, one intermediate outcome, and one end-outcome.

Q: What is the difference between “traditional volunteers” and AC volunteers?

A: AmeriCorps members are not volunteers. They are national service participants. In your application you must explain how your AmeriCorps members will generate new or additional volunteers (non-national service participants) to your organization.

Q: Do we have to pay for extra member support costs like workmen’s comp?

A: FICA, Worker’s comp and health insurance for full-time members is required and should be listed in your budget under “member support costs”. Up to 85% of those costs are eligible to be reimbursed by the Corporation.

Q: Who pays for additional member support costs like health insurance, FICA, workmen’s compensation and retirement packages?

A: Your organization must pay a minimum of 15% of those costs.

Q: What is the cost per member?

A: The maximum federal cost per member is \$12,400. To calculate the maximum federal funds you can request, multiply \$12,400 by the number of members you want.

Q: How many applications will be selected? OR How much funding is being distributed?

A: The number of applications awarded will depend on the quality of the applications. We have a minimum of \$500,000 to divide up among high quality proposals.